

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02285 161527Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4544

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2285

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR; BR, AO, US
SUBJECT: GOB VIEWS ON NEXT MOVES IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 053552

1. I SAW SILVEIRA ON MARCH 11 TO PURSUE HIS INTERRUPTED
CONVERSATION ON ANGOLA.

2. HE SEEMED PLEASED THAT WE WERE FOLLOWING UP AND SAID
THAT HE REGRETTED THAT THE FORMAT OF THE SECOND MEETING
AT NOON OF FEBRUARY 20 HAD NOT PERMITTED THE CONTINUATION
OF THE DISCUSSION ON ANGOLA.

3. ON SUBSTANCE, HE WAS NOT VERY PRECISE. HE SAID THAT
A PAPER HE HAD WORKED ON FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD
HAVE TO BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DEVELOP-
MENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. STRESSING OUR
INTEREST IN HIS VIEWS ON THE COMPLICATED AND MURKY
SITUATION, I URGED HIM TO UPDATE HIS THOUGHTS FOR
TRANSMITTAL TO THE SECRETARY EITHER THROUGH ME OR IN A
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY.

4. OUT OF THE SOMEWHAT RAMBLING COMMENTS BY SILVEIRA, I
WOULD DISTILL THE FOLLOWING AS THE MAIN POINTS OF HIS
THINKING:

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02285 161527Z

A. IN ORDER TO GET THE CUBANS OUT OF ANGOLA, IT IS IMPORTANT TO OFFER AGOSTINHO NETO ALTERNATIVES AS A PRIOR CONDITION TO MAKING THE CUBANS "UNCOMFORTABLE".

B. THESE ALTERNATIVES WOULD INVOLVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OF SOME KIND; THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO WHAT BRAZIL MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO.

C. THE SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE SOUTHERN ANGOLA IF ANY PROGRESS WERE TO BE MADE IN MOVING THE CUBANS OUT.

D. CONTINUING BRAZILIAN CONTACTS WITH AGOSTINHO NETO INDICATE THAT HE MAINTAINS HIS DESIRE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

E. SOME SORT OF CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE SET UP AMONG THE INTERESTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (AS WELL, OF COURSE, AS THE US) IN WHICH BRAZIL WOULD PARTICIPATE, NOT ON THE BASIS OF ITS POWER BUT ON THE BASIS OF ITS "IDEAS" AND "INFLUENCE".

5. SILVEIRA SAID HE WANTED TO PURSUE FURTHER WITH US THE QUESTION OF ANGOLA, THE CUBAN PRESENCE, THE ASSOCIATED MATTER OF OUTLOOK FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE/RHODESIA SITUATION. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD TRY TO GET FROM THE DEPARTMENT A PAPER TO SHARE WITH HIM THAT WOULD PROVIDE OUR APPRECIATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND JUDGMENTS CONCERNING ITS POSSIBLE EVOLUTION. I SAID THAT I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COMPARING OUR ASSESSMENTS WITH THAT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SEE WHETHER WE HAD A COMMON STARTING POINT FOR ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. I REPEATED THAT, MEANWHILE, IT WOULD BE GOOD IF HE COULD GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE ISSUES INVOLVED. SILVEIRA AGREED TO THE LATTER SUGGESTION AND SAID HE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE KIND OF DOCUMENT I HAD MENTIONED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATIONS, I REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO FURNISH THE EMBASSY WITH A DOCUMENT OF THE SORT OUTLINED ABOVE. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY TO HAVE A COMPANION PIECE CONCERNING OUR THINKING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 02285 161527Z

ON HOW TO HANDLE THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN THE AREA. I WOULD NOT WANT TO PASS THE SECOND DOCUMENT TO SILVEIRA BECAUSE I THINK IT IMPORTANT TO ASCERTAIN HIS OWN UNSTIMULATED IDEAS WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION. I BELIEVE THAT SOME OF HIS THOUGHTS WILL BE IMPRACTICAL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, BUT AT THE SAME TIME I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT WE ELICIT THEM AND HEAR HIM OUT.
CRIMMINS

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